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Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
Second session
New York, 16-27 June 2003

Views submitted by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations bodies concerning a comprehensive and integral international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

Addendum

Additional submissions: Morocco, Oman and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the Committee against Torture

I. Views of Governments

Morocco

1. The Government of Morocco was of the view that the implementation of the new convention would require the establishment of international, regional and national bodies for the coordination of strategies and the definition of goals and tools for its implementation. Morocco stated that in addition to those coordination mechanisms, the United Nations should create international mechanisms which would monitor the implementation of the convention through the analysis of statistical and other data, inquiries and country visits.

Oman

2. The Government of Oman was of the view that the convention should promote the rights of persons with disabilities through the establishment of national councils, institutions or associations, as well as regional and international bodies and committees for persons with disabilities. Oman stated that representation of persons with disabilities should be guaranteed in parliamentary and representative councils

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at all levels. Oman also stated that continuous and integrated services for persons with disabilities should be guaranteed in the areas of health, education, training and rehabilitation, and employment, as well as accessibility to housing, transport and facilities, sports and leisure activities. Special attention should be accorded to women with disabilities, media awareness and globalization and poverty.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

3. The Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya provided the following definition of disability: "A disabled person is anyone who suffers from permanent disability, which totally or partially hampers his or her work and other ordinary activities, irrespective of the nature of disability (mental, psychological or physical) or its origin (birth or acquired)". The Government also stated that the convention should be instrumental in establishing an international organization on disability and prevention, using new communication technologies for increased awareness-raising in all societies and standardizing sign languages.

II. Contributions by the United Nations system

4. The Committee against Torture expressed its view that the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities might not be best served by a new convention, which would focus exclusively on that issue, and that the possibility of streamlining existing mechanisms in the field of social development and human rights should be considered first.